

Boeing Shareholder Meeting Question
David Almasi, Vice President
The National Center for Public Policy Research, May 1, 2017

I'm David Almasi of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

Last month, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government launched a heinous chemical weapons attack on its own citizens – killing dozens of innocent people, including many children.¹ Considering Iran and Russia's continued support for Assad's regime – even in light of such horrific atrocities – some U.S. lawmakers have expressed concern about Boeing's dealings with Iran in particular.²

Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Peter Roskam recently requested that President Trump ban U.S. companies from selling aircraft to Iran. They noted: “We write to you to express our grave concern regarding the sale of U.S.-manufactured aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, has systematically used commercial aircraft for illicit military purposes, including to transport troops, weapons, and cash to rogue regimes and terrorist groups around the world. The possibility that U.S.-manufactured aircraft could be used as tools of terror is absolutely unacceptable and should not be condoned by the U.S. Government.”³

Iran has long supported the Assad government by using commercial aircraft to fly weapons and troops into Syria. Iran also sponsors the terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

Boeing's deals with Iranian airlines seem incompatible with our company's “Purpose and Mission” which is to “Connect, *Protect*, Explore and Inspire the World through Aerospace Innovation.”⁴ The second word of that mission statement is “protect.”

As planes can carry weapons and hostile troops as well as civilians, what guarantees can you make that no Boeing aircrafts will be used by Iran to benefit the Assad regime or otherwise for terrorism-related activities?

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¹ https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/04/world/middleeast/syria-gas-attack.html?_r=0

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/04/world/middleeast/iran-boeing-737-trump.html>

³ <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?id=B55A7276-2EE5-43F6-BC74-DDEE4D53490E>

⁴ <http://www.boeing.com/principles/vision.page>